

The Pocahontas Times

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GALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.

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There is no question but what the settlements in the Greenbrier valley suffered from Indian raids to a greater extent than the settlements in other portions of the mountains. Various reasons are given for this. The most generally accepted is that it was the frontier of the inhabited part of Virginia at the times that the French and British incited the Indians against the settlers. It formed a living wall of protection to the colony. The Indians centered around Chillicothe, just west of Point Pleasant. In their raids they would first come upon white men in the Greenbrier Valley.

Another reason has been given that the Indians living in the towns along the Ohio in the winter, were accustomed to come to the mountains in the summer and that the fine country of the Greenbrier Valley was particularly dear to them as their summer home and they did not want to be deprived of the fine hunting and fishing which they found here.

But on October 18, 1758, an Indian conference was held at Easton, Pennsylvania. At that time an Iroquois chief related an incident which may explain why so much hostility was evinced against the Greenbrier settlements. He said that three years previous that a party of Senecas were returning from war with scalps and seven prisoners and that at a place called Greenbrier they met a party of soldiers of at least one hundred and fifty. These soldiers told them that if they would come with them to a store that they would be supplied with provisions. The Indians traveled with the soldiers for two days and came to the place appointed and there the soldiers took away the arms from the Indians. The chief called out, "Here is death; defend yourselves as well as you can," and in the fight which ensued two of the Indians were killed, and a young boy named Squissatego was taken prisoner, and the Iroquois chief asked that this boy be returned. He said that this occurrence provoked the Indians so that they could not get over it.

He put this occurrence in the year 1755. That was the year that General Andrew Lewis was in command of a body of men in this valley. History and tradition here gives no information of these Senecas, and the statement of the Iroquois chief is from Hazard's Pennsylvania Register. But there is a letter from Governor Dinwiddie to Col. Patton dated July 8, 1755, enclosing a letter to Gen. Lewis saying, "I think he is at Greenbrier." In May of the same year, Gen. Lewis wrote that he would go by the Narrows to "Marling's" and there build a fort. He wrote from Jackson's River, and meant that he would pass through the Narrows of Knapps Creek between Huntersville and Minnehaha and build a fort at the place the town of Marlinton now stands. The letter of the Governor of the July 8, 1755, was to recall these soldiers to the Valley of Virginia. Note that this is the earliest known use of the accursed "G" in the spelling of Marlin. It has been a pitfall to the unwary feet of the printer ever since.

It is pretty certain that no fort of any considerable size was built here and the movement and action of the Lewis troops during that summer constitute a mystery to one who tries to decide between the historians. Personally we are of the opinion that Gen. Lewis took his soldiers to join Braddock in his attempt to take Fort du Quesne, where Pittsburg now stands. Braddock's defeat occurred July 9, 1755.

Withers in his Border Warfare says that Gen. Lewis and his five brothers were with Braddock at the time and that the Virginia troops cut their way out of the trap in which they found themselves, and inflicted upon the Indians about the only losses that they sustained. The French and Indians lost about 40 men, and Braddock lost in killed and wounded, 63 officers and 714 soldiers.

Withers should be authority on this subject. He must have talked

with many of the survivors of that battle and would have the same opportunity of knowing what occurred as a man born in 1892 would have of talking with veterans about the Civil War. His historical work antedates all the others that we know of in regard to Virginia history and he was very careful and painstaking.

This part of the country at that time was criss-crossed with Indian roads. If we could get a map of the Indian trails of West Virginia would appear that there were lines of communication between all parts of the state. We have seen the marks of the road which crossed the Greenbrier at this place. There cannot be much doubt that General Lewis joined the Braddock forces with his men and was at that battle and upon the defeat returned within a few days to this part of the country.

If these soldiers discovered in the Seneca war party any signs of white scalps, it is very likely that they would take summary vengeance. Anyway we see nothing inconsistent in the account of Lewis and his troops being at Braddock's Defeat and at the same time having the headquarters of his campaign on these waters. It is hardly more than a hundred miles as a crow flies from the Greenbrier Valley to the battle ground, and Lewis could have gone there about as easy as he could have returned to the vicinity of Staunton. There was a beaten path from Fort Dinwiddie on Jackson's River to Fort Cumberland, now Cumberland, Maryland.

The English troops marched to Philadelphia under Col. Dunbar, but it is practically certain that the Virginia riflemen returned in the confusion of the defeat to their own country. August 4th, following the battle, George Washington was given command of all troops to be raised in Virginia, and Col. Stephens and Maj. Andrew Lewis were next in rank. Washington made his headquarters at Winchester and his first duty was a trip of inspection from Fort Dinwiddie to Fort Cumberland. It is altogether possible that some Senecas got theirs that summer in this valley.

The effort to curtail the authority of the Postmaster General over the parcel post system was defeated in the United States Senate. The institution is one of those phases of popular government which is peculiarly susceptible of attack, in that it has enemies among the rich and powerful and while it has as its beneficiaries the public generally, no one of its friends has enough at stake to make a fight for it.

It has undoubtedly decreased the earnings of the express companies and the railroads do not seem to be friendly to it, but as a matter of fact, it will in the long run greatly increase the tonnage that the railroads will carry.

We consider the most important feature of the parcel post to be that the cheap rates have caused a class of goods to be carried from one place to another which under any other system would never have been moved by any public carrier. We have seen much that has been printed about the working of the parcel post but we have never seen this phase discussed. It is nevertheless a fact that a very large percentage of parcels which go by parcel post are those which would not move under the old methods of transportation. They would not be sent at all or would wait the opportunity of going by private conveyance. This class of parcels were never offered to express companies and were not sent by freight. It must follow that the railroads will in time build up a vast business in this class of parcels sent by the mails which they never could have enjoyed under any other plan, and at the same time the public will be accommodated.

The parcel post is working just as the reduction in postal rates has always worked, in that it brings in more business. Cheap postage is the main cause in bringing about the increase in the postal business. At one time less than a century ago it took a dollar postage to convey a letter from Philadelphia to Vincennes, Indiana. Every reduction proposed has met with vociferous objections in Congress but every one of these measures has been a success.

The germ of the idea that cheap postage was the one thing needful

was imparted to Sir Kowland Hill, of England, by an incident which he observed while walking on the streets of his native town. He was a member of Parliament and is the originator of the idea that the postal system should make the charges so reasonable that its benefits could be enjoyed by all. It is doubtful whether he had any thought that as an incident thereto that the receipts would be greatly increased. At the time we speak of, about 1840, he saw a postman stop at a cottage and a woman come out and look at a letter the carrier had for her. She examined it earnestly and handed it back to the carrier saying that she could not afford to pay the charges on it. At that time the postage was paid when the letter was delivered. Hill questioned the woman after the postman had gone and she told him that the letter was from her husband who was in London, and that they had arranged a system by which she could tell from the way the letter was addressed whether he was well, when he would be home, and other matters of importance. By this way they were able to communicate without paying the excessive rates of postage then in effect. Hill soon after determined that the government should make the charges so reasonable that the benefits of the postal system would be in reach of all and that poor people need not be put to such shifts and subtleties to communicate with each other. He was able to change the theory of the institution and from that time the object of the postal system has been to accommodate the greatest number at the lowest possible price. The result has been that his theory has been followed by every civilized country. The postal business has become the biggest item of the governmental budget, and the people have become uniformly better educated and enlightened by the general dissemination of information. The public would not know how exist without the daily mail.

In the latest attack on the parcel post much was said about the fifty pound limit fixed by the last order for the weight of parcels and the effort was to prohibit the department from increasing this weight by an order, making the future depend upon the slow and uncertain action of Congress. We believe that the parcel post can handle packages of any size. The department has a representative in every community and it can do anything in the way of transporting movable articles that any other set of men can do. The thing to be considered is that the rate charged will be sufficient to cover the service performed without any unnecessary overcharge. To take an extreme case for an illustration: Suppose under the present rates there was no limit to the weight of the article to be transported and a firm in Richmond, Virginia, desired to mail a portable steam boiler to a customer at York, West Virginia, and that the boiler weighed three tons. We think that the postal employees would be capable of performing the work for the consideration. We take this supposed case as involving a long railroad journey of some three hundred miles and twelve miles over a mud road leading over one of the highest mountains in the eastern part of the United States. Let us figure how the government would come out on such a proposition. At the present rate the postage on such a parcel would \$120.06. It would be delivered free on board the cars by the shipper. The freight bill to the railroad would be \$31.80 and it could be hauled over the mountains for about thirty dollars. At every stage of its journey it would have the watchful care of someone connected with the postal system and we see no reason why removing the weight limit altogether should have any terrors for anyone connected with the postal system. What men have done men can do, and the post-office department has the means and the men, and the credit to accomplish anything that it undertakes. As Voltaire said: "He who has not the spirit of his age, has all the misery of it."

Have you noticed the accounts of the disturbing of religious worship in the City of New York? There the city is full of hoboes. That turbulent organization known as the Independent Workers of

the World enlisted some hundreds of them and they have been going into churches during service and declaring that they were going to sleep there. They raided a Presbyterian Church during the sermon, and the minister stopped his sermon and had a parley with the leader and finally he agreed to give the intruders \$25 to leave, purchasing peace at this price. The next church they tackled was a Roman Catholic Church, and here the police arrested over a hundred of them and held them for disorderly conduct, with the exception of the leader who was held for a felony on the grounds of inciting a riot. The slogan of the army was, "Don't work! Don't beg! Take!" It has been the policy of the criminal from time immemorial and has always resulted in disaster for the unlawful who have pursued that course. The rioters gave out as their reason that it was because they could not get employment, but as the city has been trying to get men to shovel snow at a high wage for some weeks, not much stock is taken in that excuse. One of the prisoners had \$750.00 cash in his pockets when searched. If such a bunch would try to disturb religious worship in this part of the country they would have wished about their necks and jumped into the river. The Christian soldiers would first break their heads and then throw them into prison. But in New York with its heterogeneous population, people never know what to do until the paper comes out and tells them, and consequently its action is somewhat slow in that burg.

The magazine, Life, says that it will never do to allow Senator Root "to relapse back" into private life, because of his value to the country. We do not know about that sentiment as we were raised on the belief that no man is so important that his place cannot be filled. What we wish to say concerns that language used by the editor of Life. Relapse means to "lapse back" so we rather think that there is something like tautology here not to say pleonasm. As we might further say, the very identical thing itself, and this mistake is not made by any new beginner, but by the editor of the most entertaining periodical in America. Our scholarly friend, Senator Kidd, has one of the most engaging pleonasm. On approaching the elevator boy, he will say in a most impressive manner: "We desire to ascend upwards."

President Wilson appeared before Congress the other day and advised that the exemption of toll to coast-wise vessels be repealed, and it will be so ordered. Underwood is for free toll to some people and heavy toll to others and he is exercising all his influence to keep the law as it is. But Underwood don't do it, for we tell you that the thin edge of monopoly was first inserted by a government unseen; And the idea is to follow with the thickness of the whole wedge; And it means your swift retirement if you do not contravene, And your friends in Alabama, Will soon begin to hammer, If you try to block the progress of the President serene.

When the liquor dealer, who spoke to a strange young lady in New York was sentenced to five months imprisonment. The sentence for a sentence fell upon the masher like a thousand bricks and it is safe to say that he will not be quite so peart when he comes out. This sentence was confirmed upon appeal by a full court of judges whose mashing days are over. A New Jersey brewery advertised that Alexander was a beer drinker and that he conquered the world. The anti-saloon league came back with an advertisement that Alexander died at the age of 33 in a drunken debauch, and that it was better to take no chances. But that is not all of it. After Alexander had killed himself drinking all his life in and passed around the beer.

The only feud that we have with Japan is concerning Wallace Irwin's "Letters of a Japanese School Boy." If that country is in anywise responsible for this class of literature we are in favor of submitting those blames things to arbitration and then suppressing them.

He had opposed the sugravit—Wife, mother, aunt and niece; Till he went west and there had kised a justice of the peace.

Just now when every politician is trying to be respectable, the most decent thing that we could do in this Third District would be to nominate and elect John A. Preston to Congress. Four years ago he gave up a sure election for the good of the party, and he ought to be nominated this year.

Mexico is in a bad fix. It is all torn up by its armies. Its industries are paralyzed. No one feels secure in raising a crop. Fire, and sword and pestilence are scourging the land. And this is through no fault of the United States. Yet there men who think that we should send our boy soldiers there to die, to save a country from itself. We have about as much business in doing that as Mexico would have had if she had tried to restore peace between the North and the South in the sixties.

Tax Commissioner Blue is certainly making it plain to the liquor dealers that there cannot be open saloons up to midnight on June 30th of this year. The saloons will have to take an earlier date than that to move the stock or else lose all the goods on July 1. So a general shipping of liquor will occur sometime in June. Here in Pocahontas we will know very little change in conditions, but wet counties will have to get used to the new order.

The user of the most bitter words among all the West Virginia writers is that same Charles Brooks Smith, a free lance and a writer of fortune, whose pen is true to its employment. Even when he tries to say nice things about his enemies, they feel as though they were being caressed by a scorpion.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR COUNTY COURT CLERK
To the Voters of Pocahontas County
I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-election to the Office of Clerk of the County Court of Pocahontas County, subject to the Republican primary election.
Given under my hand this the 7th day of January, 1914.
C. J. McCARTY

To the Voters of Pocahontas county:
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Clerk of Pocahontas county and promise if elected to serve the people of this county to the best of my skill and judgment. As you know I have had many years experience in this work and I would be glad to take it up again.
Respectfully,
S. L. BROWN.

FOR CIRCUIT CLERK
To the Voters of Pocahontas County:
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the nomination for the office of Circuit Clerk of Pocahontas County, subject to the action of the Democratic party in nominating candidates.
As I am engaged in school work now and will for some time, it will not be possible for me to see all the voters of the county, so I shall ask you through the columns of this paper for your support and influence.
C. FOREST HULL.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Circuit Clerk of Pocahontas County, subject to the action of the Democratic Party.
Geo. D. Oliver.
Cass, W. Va., Feb. 23, 1914

We are authorized to announce M. Lacy Johnston as a candidate for the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

To the Voters of Pocahontas County:
I am a candidate for re-election to the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas County. In the event of my election, I will endeavor, in the future as in the past, to render the very best service possible to the people of my county. Soliciting your support and influence, I am,
Very Respectfully,
GEO. W. SHARP.

FOR COMMISSIONER
We are authorized to announce J. S. McNeel as a candidate for Commissioner of the County Court, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

FOR COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT
To the Voters of Pocahontas County:
I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-election to the office of Superintendent of Schools of Pocahontas County, subject to the action of the Democratic Party's way of nominating. I promise, if nominated and elected, to serve the people to the best of my ability by devoting all my time to supervision of the schools. Thanking you for past favors and soliciting your support in this election, I am,
Yours Respectfully,
B. B. WILLIAMS.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
To the Voters of Pocahontas County.
I am a candidate for the nomination for the House of Delegates, subject to any method adopted by the Democratic party.

I have not been solicited by "many voters" to become a candidate, nor will it be any personal sacrifice to serve the people of my County, if elected, but I have been asked by a few of my good friends to become a candidate. If it is the will of the people of Pocahontas County to elect me to this important office, I shall honestly and conscientiously vote for all measures which I believe to be for the best interests of my County and State, as the light is given me to see my duty. If I can in some degree measure up to the expectations of the intelligent citizenship of Pocahontas County, I will have received all the reward hoped for. It will be impossible for me to see all the voters, and I take this method of asking for the support of all my friends.
B. M. YEAGER.

Mexico is in a bad fix. It is all torn up by its armies. Its industries are paralyzed. No one feels secure in raising a crop. Fire, and sword and pestilence are scourging the land. And this is through no fault of the United States. Yet there men who think that we should send our boy soldiers there to die, to save a country from itself. We have about as much business in doing that as Mexico would have had if she had tried to restore peace between the North and the South in the sixties.

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Marlinton W. Va.

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FOR SALE—Dunmore Roller Mill, (equipped with latest improved roller process for wheat; also buckwheat and feed mill; with new building; mill built last year. Have had steady grinding since mill started, but desire a change. For particulars call on W. F. McElwee Dunmore, W. Va. may 1

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